NOVEMBER 2022

Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Two 1,000-Year-Old Brooches Discovered on the U.K. Island Suggest the Presence of Female Vikings

A pair of 1,000-year-old brooches discovered on the Isle of Man have historians—and now the public—questioning the long-held belief that only male Vikings settled on the island.
The ornate oval brooches, made from bronze and embellished with silver wire, are believed to have been created around A.D. 900—950. They went on display for the first time last week at the Manx Museum in the capital city of Douglas.

"The Isle of Man has a rich Viking heritage," Allison Fox, curator of archaeology for Manx National Heritage, said in a statement. However, she noted, "This type of brooch, worn by Scandinavian women in the Viking Age and usually found in graves, has been missing so far."

Without evidence of female presence, it has historically been theorized that when Viking ships landed on the island (which sits between Britain and Ireland in the Irish Sea) in the 800s, they carried only men.

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- 1000-Year-Old Brooches
- Secretary's Report
- Tiny Gold Book
- Return to Cabelot
- Dinosaur Mummy
- Gems on Gems
- Empress Eugenies's Bracelet
- Rock Comics
- Bench Tips

Speaking to the British newspaper i, the curator added that the discovery showed that experts needed to "reassess these assumptions" and consider that those ships brought over "a new, mixed community."
Metal detectorists John Crowe and Craig Evans discovered the brooches in December 2018, along with a decorated glass bead and a bronze belt buckle.
Shortly thereafter, the objects were sent to the Manx National Heritage, a charity responsible for the island's cultural patrimony, for cleaning and conservation. The items were declared treasure in July 2020.

Read the entire article at News.Artnet.com

Clubhouse Address:
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting
Date 10/12/2022
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Judith Birx at 7:08 pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

There was one new member to recognize: Tom Johnston.

There were 6 guests in attendance: Serita and Keith Wells, Betty and Addie Raye, & Beverly and John Williams.

Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our September meeting as printed in the newsletter, Roberta Oldread seconded. Passed by all members.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Mark Moore made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Don Rocha. Approved by all.

VP Janice Wojcik announced that we need volunteers for our upcoming annual Gem Show in December. She encouraged all members to come out and help make our show a success.

President Birx spoke about the Club's non-profit status being revoked by the IRS and said that she and Treasurer Wheeler were working to have the Club reinstated. She stated the IRS wants $600 to reinstate the Club and that the Board had voted to pay the fee. Reinstatement will probably happen in 2023.

President Birx also announced that our annual election of officers and board members will be held at our December meeting. She encouraged anyone interested in becoming an officer or board member to announce their intentions to any of the Club's board members.

Lynn Walters and Duane Dunn spoke about their trip to Graves Mountain and how much fun everyone had. They spoke about bringing home iridescent hematite and lots of other treasures.

President Birx spoke about her trip to William Holland School of Lapidary Arts along with Secretary Melodye Steverson. She said that she learned a lot of new techniques in silversmithing and enjoyed her time there. She said that she was considering signing up for classes at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center in Dunedin, FL , where VP Wojcik takes classes weekly.

VP Wojcik announced that November's meeting will be a “Return to Cabelot” and December's meeting will feature member Erik Ulano, who will speak of his recent land purchase in Utah and mining on it.

She said January's meeting will be called “Game of Stones”, our annual dinner and rock bingo game afterwards.

Mark Moore told members about the new fossil museum at the Citrus Library in Citrus County. He encouraged members to visit.

Lynn Walters made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carole Babbicz seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson as recorded by Board Member Michael Steverson.

Board of Directors meeting minutes have not been compiled as of press time, and will be made available shortly.

A Metal Detectorist Discovered a Tiny Gold Book From the 15th Century That Might Have Belonged to King Richard III's Wife

You never know what you might find with your metal detector!

An English nurse named Buffy Bailey made a stunning discovery of a tiny, solid gold book while on holiday near York. Bailey and her husband, Ian, were walking near farmland when their metal detector alerted them to something under the ground. They began to dig, expecting to find the usual detritus.
Instead, the miniature gold book is thought to be connected to King Richard III, and could be worth an estimated £100,000 ($134,500)

"I dug down five inches and it was just there—I still didn't believe it was anything special," she told the BBC. Perhaps it was a souvenir trinket dropped by a tourist, she thought.

Once the nurse, who chose York for her metal detecting holiday because of its rich history, cleaned the tiny book, she realized how lustrous and heavy the object was. The book, possibly a bible or a book of hours, is engraved with Saints Leonard and Margret, patron saints of childbirth, which has led experts to the conclusion that it may have been a gift to someone during pregnancy.

Only nobles were allowed to carry gold during the 15th century, so the owner of this .2 ounce, 22- or 24-karat gold trinket is thought to be a relative of Richard III as it was found close to land he owned between 1483 and 1485. This has led to speculation that it could have belonged to his wife Anne Neville.

Read the entire article at News.Artnet.com

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Presents

Return to Cabelot

TURNING ROCKS INTO GEMSTONES AGAIN

It's baaaaack! I Our first cabbing extravaganza was such a hit that at our November 9th Meeting we will revisit the world of lapidary. Members will design a CAB with templates, cut a CAB with a trim saw, and grind a CAB with our Pixie Cabbing machines. Experienced lapidary members will have lapidary equipment on display throughout the clubhouse to show a variety of techniques to make your simple rock come to life as a gemstone!

'Dinosaur mummy': Researchers believe they've found one of the best preserved dinosaurs ever

Dinosaurs and mummies. What could possibly go wrong?

Researchers in Canada have discovered parts of what they believe to be a full "dinosaur mummy" lodged in a hillside, the University of Reading in the United Kingdom announced last week.

The two exposed fossils, a foot and part of a tail clad in fossilized skin, are believed to belong to a juvenile duck-billed Hadrosaur dinosaur that died somewhere between 77 million to 75 million years ago, roughly 10 million years before dinosaurs went extinct, researchers said. Scientists began excavation of the site to remove the entire remains from the hill.

"It's so well preserved you can see the individual scales, we can see some tendons and it looks like there's going to be skin over the entire animal," Brian Pickles, a paleontologist and ecology professor at the University of Reading, told USA TODAY. "Which means, if we're really lucky, then some of the other internal organs might have been preserved as well."

If the remains are in as good of shape as Pickles hopes, it would be one of the best preserved dinosaur fossils ever discovered and would provide scientists with a clearer picture of what the dinosaur looked like when it roamed the Earth.

In the best case scenario, the creature's stomach contents might be preserved, allowing scientists to determine the animal's last meal, Pickles said.

Read the entire article at Phys.Org

Empress Eugenie's Emerald Bracelet To Be Sold

Emeralds and Diamonds, Oh My!

November's Magnificent Jewels sale at Sotheby's in Geneva will include a magnificent diamond and emerald jewel with impeccable royal provenance: Empress Eugénie's Emerald Bracelet.

On Wednesday, November 9, Sotheby's will offer this antique diamond and emerald bracelet, which dates to the 1850s, as part of their Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels sale in Geneva. The lot notes for the auction describe the bracelet as a "fine emerald and diamond bracelet" with a "step-cut emerald, within a stylised floral surround of circular-cut and cushion-shaped diamonds" and "an articulated openwork strap set with similarly-cut diamonds" in silver and gold. The emerald set in the bracelet comes from Colombia.

The first documented owner of the bracelet was Eugénie de Montijo, one of the most fascinating royal women of the nineteenth century. She was born into a family of Spanish aristocrats in Granada in 1826. Educated in Paris, Eugénie caught the eye of Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte in 1849, when he was President of France. After seizing power by force, he became Emperor Napoleon III of France in 1852, and when he married Eugénie the following year, she became an empress.

The collection of jewelry that the glamorous Empress Eugénie included a set of jewels set with diamonds and emeralds. The suite included a dazzling tiara made for her by the Parisian jeweler Eugène Fontenay. She wears the tiara in the portrait above, which dates to the 1860s. Emeralds were among Eugénie's favorite gemstones, in part because they looked so beautiful with her red hair.

Read the entire article at TheCourtJeweller.com

Gems on Gems by Jerry Johnson, G.G. (GIA)

The birthstones for Nov are Topaz and citrine quartz.

This article is about Topaz.
According to Pliny the elder in his "Natural History" noted that topaz as coming from mines on the island of Topaz in the Red Sea. (Also, the early source of Period).

Topaz comes in a variety of colors, such as colorless, yellow, blue, and green with the sherry color being the most valued.

Topaz is commonly found in pegmatite dikes around the world.
The finest Natural blue topaz comes from Brazil as well as aquamarine which is easily mistaken for topaz.

The topaz, when worn as an amulet or talisman protects against sadness and gives courage.
When powered and added to wine it is a cure for asthma, insomnia and can heal burns and stop hemorrhaging.

In 1982 one of the largest faceted topazes called "American golden Topaz" was donated to the Smithsonian with a weight of 22,892cts (10.1Lbs).
Other noted gem topaz can be found in the New York American natural history museum, most notable are two pale blue faceted gem topaz with a weight of 120 and 308 carats each.
Also on display is a nearly six hundred pound lightly tinted yellow and pink topaz crystal.

Topaz has a fairly easy cleavage (easily broken) and is best used in pendants and is not a great stone for men's rings.

Strong sunlight can fade or change the colors.

Normal warm water and dish soap for cleaning followed by wiping dry.
Avoid ultrasonic jewelry cleaners.

Field Trips

"Note: The Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club does not sponsor field trips other than trips that are sanctioned by the SFMS (The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies).

Our club insurance is through SFMS and does not cover excursions not listed on their website as safe."

Archaeologists Discover Ancient Glassworks From the Late Roman Period

1600 Year Old Glassworks found

IAA excavations were conducted as part of the Jezreel Valley Railway Project, where archaeologists uncovered the remains of ancient glass kilns which produced commercial quantities of raw glass around 1600 years ago.

During the Roman period, glass was valued for its transparency and beauty, used in public buildings in the form of windows, mosaics and light fixtures, in addition to bowls and drinking vessels in most Roman households. Consequently, the demand for glass required industrialised centres to meet consumer demand, with the glassworks in the Jezreel Valley being one such centre.

Researchers discovered a series of kilns consisting of firebox compartments where kindling was burnt at high temperatures, and a chamber for melting raw materials (beach sand and salt) at temperatures of 1200 degrees Celsius.

Yael Gorin-Rosen, head curator of the Glass Department in the Israel Antiquities Authority said: "This is a very important discovery with implications regarding the history of the glass industry both in Israel and in the entire ancient world.

From historical sources dating to the Roman period, we know that the 'Akko valley was renowned for its excellent quality sand, which was highly suitable for the manufacture of glass."

A chemical analysis on glass vessels from this period has shown that many sites in Europe and the Mediterranean basin sourced glass products from this region that supplied the wider Roman world.

Read the entire article at HeritageDaily.com

continued from page 11

DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is $10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose pupose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS, our annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.

Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are $25.00 annually for adults, and $5.00 for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Dr in Spring Hill. The meetings are held the secind Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM

2022 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Judith Birx	352.587.1702	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President	Janice Wojcik	813.677.6263	jfwojcik@verizon.net
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352.683.9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Webmaster	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator	Gloria DuPont	352.848.5199	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Judith Birx (President) Janice Wojcik (Vice President) Melodye Steverson (Secretary) Janet Wheeler (Treasurer)
Roberta Oldread (2022) Virginia Steverson (2022- Interim) Roger Wheeler (2022- Interim) Michael Steverson (2022) Ralph Barber (Past President)

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

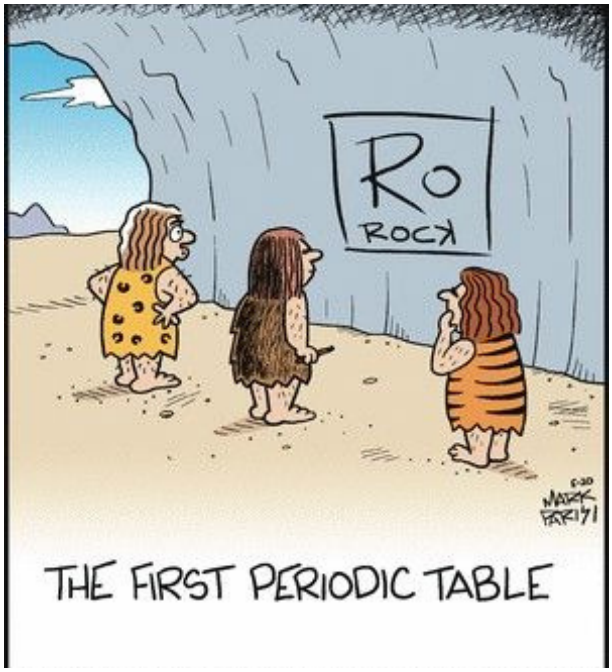
Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

Brad's Bench Tips continued on page 9

Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Rock Talk Funny Papers



From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

If you missed our October meeting, you missed Pam Gonzalez and VP Janice Wojcik's presentation on their trip to North Carolina, and their showing of rocks that react to UV light. This presentation was glowing!

Google recently introduced a new feature for YouTube channels. They are called Handles. I secured our handle for our YouTube channel. With handles, our YouTube address is far easier to remember, and to mention to anyone. Our YouTube channel address with our handle is https://www.youtube.com/@withlacoocheerockhounds. So, basically, all you would need to do is go to YouTube.com/ and add the @withlacoocheerockhounds after the forward-slash. Easy-peezy!

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to the next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact me, and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address. I have a few of you who unsubscribed from the mailings. I cannot add you back to the list. You have to subscribe to get back on the list. It's a permissions thing.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for Programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand its educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

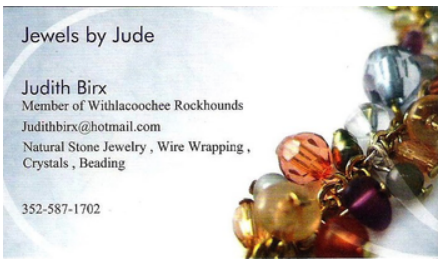
Rock On!!!

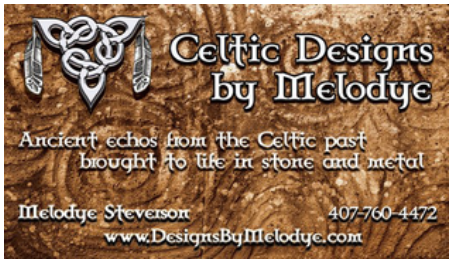
Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

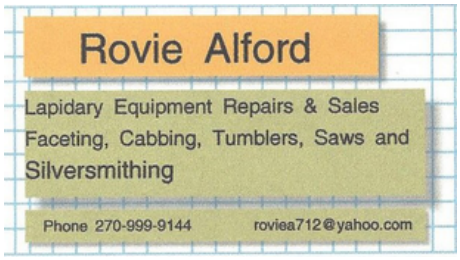
Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.
These are SCAMS.
Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monitary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.

Rockhounds Advertisers







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Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

If you ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed
Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.
The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.
Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.
Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form
2023

Annual Dues: Individual member, $35.00. Under 18 years of age, $5.00

☐ Check if returning member

☐ Check if current member with change of information

☐ Check if new member

☐ Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name _____ First Name _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number (s) _____

Email address: _____

You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information.
You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the form.

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

2022